Highways is a continuous process and allocation in 2005-06 depends upon inter-se-priority of works in the state and also availability of funds.

EPFB's Investment in Schemes

*483. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Board is thinking of investing money in various schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Provident Fund money is invested as per the pattern of investment notified by the Government from time to time. The investment pattern notified by the Ministry of Labour on 9th July 2003 provides for investment of EPF money in Central Government Securities, State Government Securities, Bonds/Securities of Public Financial Institutions, Term deposits receipts of Public Sector Banks and private sector bonds/securities. However, CBT(EPF) has decided not to invest in the private sector bonds/securities.

Making FDI Policy more Amenable to It Industry

*486. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether conceding that foreign institutional investment in telecom companies is function of the market dynamics, Government have decided to allow companies upto four months to pare their foreign holding to the stipulated 74 per cent;

(b) whether to make telecom foreign direct investment (FDI) policy more amenable to industry, Government are also likely to permit telecom companies to outsource software processes to agencies from remote destinations;

(c) whether the policy announced in India has brought Indian telecom service providers from giving remote access to any equipment manufacturers; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision would be welcomed by all?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) Government had decided to increase FDI limits from 49% to 74% in telecom sector. Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and some of the service providers have made some suggestions including those mentioned in parts (a) to (c) of the question for incorporation in the guidelines/notification to be issued for the implementation of the aforesaid decision. These suggestions are being examined and a final decision is yet to be taken.

Morgues Along National Highways

*487. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has taken steps to build a large number of morgues for accident victims along the National Highways;

(b) if so, whether the NHAI has conducted any study on the need for such morgues;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NHAI is ignoring many representations made by Road Safety Forum to reduce the number of accident victims;

(d) to what extent would NHAI modify its stance and improve its public relations profile immediately; and

(e) the steps proposed by NHAI to carefully respond to demands made by the Road Safety Forum?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) The representations from individuals, organisations are duly considered by NHAI for possible accident reduction measures. The representations from Road Safety Forum have also been attended to. NHAI is always accessible and follows a transparent and open door policy and